

seriously injured due to Marcus' quick and heroic actions.

AAA's last honoree is from California.

It was a clear afternoon on November 4, 1996, at St. Jarbeth's School when School Safety Patrol Domonique Fines and April Corral took their post on the northwest corner of Harold and Champion Streets.

A white pickup truck stopped at the stop sign next to their post and then started up the steep hill on Harold Street. Near the top of the hill, the truck stalled and rolled backward. As it came down the hill, the truck picked up speed.

Unaware of the truck, April handed her patrol sign to Domonique as she bent down to tie her shoe. Domonique noticed the truck rapidly heading toward them. She shouted to April to watch out and started to cross Harold Street to get out of its way. Halfway across the street, Domonique looked back to see if her partner, April, was following her. Unaware of the danger, April was still tying her shoe. Domonique yelled again, but April couldn't hear her over the noise from the street traffic and the playground.

Unconcerned about her own safety, Domonique ran back to April, grabbed her arm, and pushed her out of the way. The truck jump the curb where April had been tying her shoe and then crashed into a fence.

I also want to recognize and thank the American Automobile Association for their invaluable safety program and for honoring these outstanding safety patrol members.

In the 1920's AAA began organizing safety patrol programs whereby older students assist younger students while crossing streets as they walked to and from school. Today, more than 500,000 students across the country serve as AAA safety patrol volunteers. In fact, there are currently 50,000 schools with safety patrols.

AAA supplies training materials, belts, badges, and other items needed to operate the safety patrol programs. Importantly, AAA promotes and recognizes patrol efforts each year through a series of awards, newsletters, summer camps, and scholarships.

On behalf of my Senate colleagues, and for parents all across the country, I want to thank AAA. Their work in helping to keep our youngsters a little safer on their way to and from school is extremely praiseworthy.

I am very proud of Surmel, Edwin, Marcus, and Domonique who exemplified courage and citizenship. I know that their parents and communities are equally as proud. These four youngsters showed great courage in saving another individuals life.

HONORING KENTUCKY SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR, TOM CLOPTON

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Tom

Clopton of Cave City, Kentucky, who has been selected as the Kentucky Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Tom is the President and CEO of Tekno, Inc., a manufacturing company in Cave City. He started the company in 1989 with nothing more than a home computer and his personal savings. Today Tekno is a premier designer and manufacturer of material handling, factory automation, and specialty machinery systems for industrial applications.

Tekno's success is remarkable. Annual sales have grown from \$354 thousand in 1989 to nearly \$13.2 million in 1995. Revenues have increased nearly four thousand percent in just seven and a half years. This remarkable growth has resulted in Tekno being ranked as one of America's fastest growing privately owned companies for three consecutive years, 1994-1996.

Not only have Tom's business and managerial skills fostered the growth of a productive company, his ingenuity and engineering skills have enabled him to acquire 13 patents from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In addition, he has patents pending in both Canada and Mexico.

And as any good boss will do, Tom attributes much of his success to his employees. He knows that happy employees are productive employees and he makes every effort to ensure that Tekno provides a pleasant working environment. In return, his employees take pride in their job and are quick to volunteer for extra hours when urgent tasks need to be completed.

And finally, I want to say that Tom's dedication and commitment to his customers, employees and community sets an example for every small business. I am happy that Tom is being recognized for all of the good work he has done. I congratulate him on this significant accomplishment and wish him many future years of success.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 2, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,336,777,463,335.09. (Five trillion, three hundred thirty-six billion, seven hundred seventy-seven million, four hundred sixty-three thousand, three hundred thirty-five dollars and nine cents)

Five years ago, June 2, 1992, the federal debt stood at \$3,940,929,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred forty billion, nine hundred twenty-nine million)

Ten years ago, June 2, 1987, the federal debt stood at \$2,300,635,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred billion, six hundred thirty-five million)

Fifteen years ago, June 2, 1982, the federal debt stood at \$1,077,417,000,000. (One trillion, seventy-seven billion, four hundred seventeen million)

Twenty-five years ago, June 2, 1972, the federal debt stood at \$427,622,000,000 (Four hundred twenty-seven billion, six

hundred twenty-two million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,909,155,463,335.09 (Four trillion, nine hundred nine billion, one hundred fifty-five million, four hundred sixty-three thousand, three hundred thirty-five dollars and nine cents) during the past 25 years.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, of necessity, I was at the Finance Committee hearing on trade negotiating authority this morning, and so was unable to be on the floor to pay tribute—as so many others have done—to our esteemed colleague, Senator THURMOND, who now holds the record for Senate longevity. But I would like to pay such tribute now.

Just about 1 year ago—June 13, 1996, to be precise—my daughter Maura and I traveled to the White House for a state dinner in honor of Ireland's president, Mary Robinson, and her husband Nicholas. We stopped at the northwest gate, to be scrutinized by White House security officials. An earnest young man in a uniform peered into our Jeep, studied my face, consulted a clipboard, and then said smartly, "Good evening, Senator THURMOND!"

A fine compliment, to be mistaken for a man more robust, more vigorous, more irrepressible than individuals half his age or mine!

I will leave to others the task of highlighting our beloved colleague's absolutely extraordinary private and public lives, which span the 20th century. A few things come to mind which bear mentioning, however. He learned his populist brand of politics from "Pitchfork Ben" Tillman—a man born 150 years ago—whose Senate seat he now occupies. And yet he was just re-elected for the eighth time, again with little difficulty. Senator THURMOND embodies the political and social transformation of the South.

As a 40-year-old, he volunteered for active duty during World War II and landed at Normandy with the 82d Airborne Division. Immediately after the war, he was elected governor of South Carolina. While governor, in 1948, he ran for president as a States' Rights Democrat and garnered 39 electoral votes.

He was elected to the Senate in 1954 as a write-in candidate, the first person ever elected to major office by this method. But true to a campaign pledge he made, he resigned in 1956 and stood for re-election. In 1964, he left the Democratic Party and became a Goldwater Republican, presaging—or, perhaps, ushering in—GOP gains in the South that continue to this day. He has served as a delegate to six Democratic and eight Republican National Conventions—a distinction I doubt anyone else shares. Suffice it to say that if STROM THURMOND did not exist, it might be necessary for us to invent him.